

## **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

- a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture;
  - a liner, the liner having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, with the liner arranged and configured to fit into said sleeve in a nesting relation; and,
  - a skirt, the skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a brush;
- wherein the holder receives the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the handle of the paintbrush protruding through the aligned apertures of the sleeve and the liner in a sealing relation;
- whereby liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation is captured by the inner liner of the holder and prevented from contacting the user of the brush..

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The holder of claim 1, wherein said skirt comprises: a first panel and a second panel, with the first panel and second panel constructed and arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into its first and second positions.

Claim 4 (Original): The holder of claim 3, wherein each of said first and second panels further comprise opposing extensions, with said opposing extensions of said first and second panels arranged and configured to contact each other in a substantially overlapping relation when the skirt is moved into its first and second positions.

Claim 5 (Original): The holder of claim 3, further comprising a fastener, the fastener operable to maintain said panels in a predetermined orientation when said skirt is moved into its first and its second positions.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A protective holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the protective holder comprising:

- a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an inner surface comprising absorbent material and an outer surface comprising non-absorbent material; the flexible sleeve positionable about the body of a paintbrush so that said inner surface is adjacent to the applicator of a paintbrush, whereby the flexible sleeve collects liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation; and,
- a skirt, the skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a brush.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The protective holder of claim 11, wherein each of said first and second panels further comprise opposing extensions, with said opposing extensions of said first and second panels arranged and configured to contact each other in a substantially overlapping relation when the skirt is moved into its first and second positions.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The protective holder of claim 11, further comprising a fastener, the fastener operable to maintain said panels in a predetermined orientation when said skirt is moved into its first and its second positions.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A protective holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the protective holder comprising:

- a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an inner surface and an outer surface; the flexible sleeve positionable about the body of a paintbrush so that said inner surface is adjacent to the applicator of a paintbrush, whereby the flexible sleeve collects liquid that dribbles from a charged applicator towards a handle of a paintbrush when the paintbrush is held in an vertical orientation; and,

- a skirt comprising a first panel and a second panel, with the first and second panels constructed and arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A protective holder in combination with ~~for~~ a paintbrush ~~of the type~~ having a removable handle having an attachment end with a shoulder, a body having a handle receiving aperture, and an applicator, the protective holder comprising:

- a sleeve comprising a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture; wherein the sleeve of the protective holder is configured to substantially receive the body of the ~~the~~ [[a]] paintbrush in a nesting relation such that the aperture of the sleeve is in substantial alignment with the handle receiving aperture of the ~~the~~ [[a]] paintbrush body; and,

- wherein the protective holder ~~is may be removably~~ retained on the ~~the~~ [[a]] paintbrush ~~by~~ between the shoulder ~~handle of the handle and the body of~~ the a paintbrush as the attachment end of the handle is inserted into the

handle receiving aperture of the body of the [[a]] paintbrush that has been substantially received within the sleeve.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The protective holder of claim 12, further comprising a liner having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, with the liner arranged and configured to fit into said sleeve in a nesting relation;

wherein the liner of the protective holder is configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation such that the aperture of the liner is in alignment with the aperture of the sleeve and the handle receiving aperture of a paintbrush body.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The protective holder of claim 13, wherein the liner comprises absorbent material.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The protective holder of claim 12, further comprising a skirt operatively connected to the sleeve and movable between a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a brush, and a second position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the handle of a brush.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, the sleeve configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the handle of the paintbrush protruding through the aligned aperture of the sleeve; and,

a skirt comprising a first panel and a second panel, with the first and second panels operatively connected to the sleeve such that each panel may be moved independently of the other, the first and second panels constructed and arranged to be operatively connected to each other when the skirt is moved into a first position where the skirt is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the skirt is

substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The holder of claim 16, wherein the first and second panels are hingedly connected to the sleeve.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The holder of claim 16, wherein the first and second panels are operatively connected along opposing sidewalls of the sleeve.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A holder for a paintbrush of the type having a handle, a body, and an applicator, the holder comprising:

- a sleeve having a plurality of sidewalls and a base with an aperture, the sleeve configured to substantially receive the body of a paintbrush in a nesting relation with the handle of the paintbrush protruding through the aligned aperture of the sleeve; and,

- a skirt comprising a panel operatively connected to a segment of the sleeve, with the panel movable between a first position where the panel is substantially coextensive with the applicator of a paintbrush, and a second position where the panel is substantially coextensive with the handle of a paintbrush.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The holder of claim 19, wherein the segment of the sleeve to which the panel is operatively connected to is one of the plurality of sidewalls of the sleeve.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The holder of claim 20, wherein the panel is configured to be pivoted between the first and second positions.